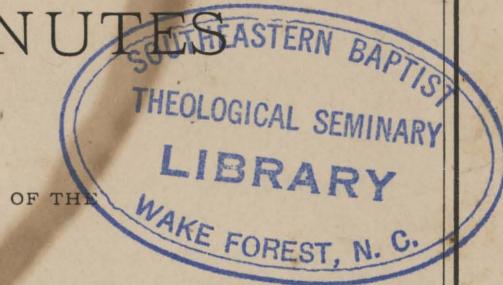


# MINUTES



# Ocmulgee Association

HELD WITH THE

Church at Smyrna, Monroe County, Ga.,

September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1905.

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COLUMBUS, GA.:

JAS. J. & THOS. GILBERT, PRINTERS AND MFG. STATIONERS.  
1905.



## MINUTES

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*Of the Ocmulgee Association, held with the Church at Smyrna, Monroe County, Georgia, September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1905.*

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. H. Temples, of the Canoochee Association—Text, II. Tim. iv. 2: “Preach the word.”

After one hour's respite, the messengers met in the house. Preaching at the stand by Eld. B. C. Colwell, followed by B. F. Williamson, of the Echeconnee.

The Association was opened with prayer by Eld. T. J. Bazemore.

Received letters from ten churches, and minuted their state.

Elected Eld. J. H. GRESHAM, Moderator, and D. G. McCOWEN, Clerk, J. W. NEWTON, Assistant Clerk.

Appointed Eld. T. J. Glover to write the next Circular Letter.

Invited visiting and corresponding brethren to seats with us.

Dispensed with the reading of the Decorum.

Called for Petitionary Letters. None.

On motion, agreed to adopt the same order in reference to business as that of last year.

Appointed the following committees:

On Preaching—C. D. Buckner, J. M. Mathews, W. J. Green, E. E. Carter, W. T. Ingram, with Moderator and church delegation.

To Write Corresponding Letter—Eld. D. G. McCowen, J. W. Newton and Eld. J. H. Gresham.

Called for Correspondence from sister Associations and received as follows:

Yellow River—Elds. J. F. Aldmond, T. J. Bazemore, and Bro. G. W. Webb.

Oconee—J. M. Adams, with minutes.

Primitive Ebenezer—Iverson Lord, J. T. McArthur, B. F. Ryle, R. W. Young.

Primitive Western—Elds. Rowe and B. C. Colwell.

Marietta—Letter and minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Letter and minutes.

Kehukee—Letter and minutes.

The Committee to Arrange Preaching reported that Eld. Lee Hanks would commence preaching to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, followed by Eld. Rowe, from the Primitive Western. One hour's respite, and Eld. W. T. Everett would preach, followed by Eld. W. W. Childs.

Appointed Correspondence to sister Associations:

Yellow River—J. A. Adams and J. M. Mathews.

Oconee—J. W. Lowe and T. H. Estees.

Primitive Ebenezer—Sent minutes.

Primitive Western—Sent minutes.

Marietta—Sent minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Minutes.

Kehukee—Minutes.

The Association then adjourned to 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning  
Prayer by Eld. B. C. Colwell.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8:30 o'CLOCK—The Association met again. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Adams.

Called for further correspondence, and received Elds. Lee Hanks, of the Flint River Association; H. Temples, of the Lower Canoochee; Elds. Tom Bently, W. W. Childs, and Brethren J. W. Fielder, M McElmurry, Joe Magee, J. W. Grant, J. M. Fredrick, B. C. Barker, Ben Williamson, A. S. Copeland and J. M. Childs, of the Echeconnee; Eld. B. W. Pier-  
son and Bro. F. R. Binson, of the Canoochee; Eld. W. T. Everett, of the Harmony Association. All received as visiting brethren.

Called for Circular Letter, prepared by Bro. J. M. Mathews, which was received and adopted.

Appointed General Meetings:

First District—Crooked Creek, Putnam county, Ga., to commence on Friday before the fifth Sunday in July, 1906.

Second District—Ephesus, Monroe county, Ga., to commence on Friday before the second Sunday in July, 1906.

Called for, read and adopted the Corresponding Letter.

Called for Miscellaneous Business:

Appointed Brethren E. E. Carter, C. D. Buckner, J. W. Newton and D. G. McCowen as a committee to erect a monument to the memory of Eld. D. L. Hitchcock.

*Resolved*, That this Association feel to give thanks to God, and to the brethren, sisters and friends for the kindness we have received at their hands during our meeting.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the Church at County Line, Jones county, Ga., four miles east of Juliette, on the Southern Railroad, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1906.

Agreed that the Clerk have 600 copies of these minutes printed and distributed among the churches, and that he receive for his services the balance of the money after paying for the above number.

Called for contributions and distributed corresponding minutes.

Adjourned. Prayer by the Moderator.

ELD. J. H. GRESHAM, Moderator.

D. G. McCOWEN, Clerk.

J. W. NEWTON, Assistant Clerk.

### State of the Churches.

CHURCHES	COUNTIES	MESSENGERS' NAMES	Baptized	Rec'd by Let'r	Disn'd by Let'r	Excluded	Restored	Dead	Total	Associational Fund	Meeting Days
Eanor .....	Putnam .....	C. D. Buckner, W. M. Russaw .....	2	2	...	...	...	14	8	1 50	3
Crooked Creek	Putnam .....	E. E. Carter, C. M. Hudson .....	1	1	1	2 21	1 50	1	2 21	2 00	4
Shoal Creek .....	Newton .....	J. W. Lowe, J. H. Esteens .....	...	...	...	42	2 24	1 50	1	2 24	2 00
County Line .....	Jones .....	Eld. J. T. Glover, J. A. Adams .....	...	...	...	2 24	1 50	1	2 24	2 00	4
New Hope .....	Jones .....	Eld. J. H. Gresham, W. J. Green .....	4	2	...	...	43	2 00	4	4 2	2 00
Mt. Zion .....	Jones .....	Eld. T. C. Hammock, J. H. Mooring .....	6	1	1	1 44	2 00	3	1 44	2 00	3
Ephesus .....	Monroe .....	W. T. Ingram, J. H. Williamson .....	...	...	...	19	2 00	2	19	2 00	2
Smyrna .....	Monroe .....	Eld. D. G. McCowan, J. W. Newton .....	...	...	...	39	2 00	4	39	2 00	4
Fellowship .....	Jasper .....	J. T. McElhaney, Martin Tyler .....	...	...	...	19	3 00	2	19	3 00	2
Mt. Pleasant .....	Jones .....	J. M. Mathews, M. J. Tyner .....	7	...	...	2 28	1 00	4	2 28	1 00	4

### Order of Preaching.

Saturday Morning 10 o'clock—Preaching by Eld. Lee Hanks, followed by Eld. Rowe, from the Western. In the afternoon, W. T. Everett would preach, followed by W. W. Childs.

Sunday Morning, 10 o'clock—Preaching by Eld. J. F. Aldmond, followed by Eld. Thos. Bentley. In the afternoon, Eld. B. H. Pierson preached, followed by Eld. T. J. Bazemore.

### Ministers and Their Post Offices.

D. G. McCowan .....	Forsyth, Monroe County, Ga.
J. H. Gresham .....	Hester, Jones County, Ga.
J. T. Glover .....	Plenitude, Jones County, Ga.
J. D. Curtis .....	Mansfield, Newton County, Ga.
J. W. Green .....	Clinton, Jones County, Ga.
Joe Hudson .....	Eatonton, Putnam County, Ga.

### CIRCULAR LETTER.

*To the Ocmulgee Association, in Session with Smyrna Church, Monroe County, Ga.:*

“Let brotherly love continue.”—Heb. xiii. 1.

Dear brethren and sisters, if we understand the purpose for which our fathers organized this union of the churches, it was to worship God, yet we see and hear throughout our goodly land, where these unions have been destroyed, divided and sub-divided, churches declaring non-fellowship against sister churches, and worse—churches rending asunder, even declaring non-fellowship—one against the other.

And we know that brotherly love cannot continue, nor can we worship our God in this way, for we read in God's Word that “All thy people shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy people.”

Then, we know, when we try the spirits—as there are but two—that this spirit to divide and confuse is of that wicked one, who “Is ever walking to and fro on the earth seeking whom he may devour.” And, according to the scriptures, this spirit has been manifest in the church from the earliest ages. We know, also, that it has continued down to the present time.

We remember that the Apostle John fell down at the angel’s feet to worship him, but hear what the angel said: “See thou, do it not, worship God!”

We remember the Apostle Peter wanted to build three Tabernacles; also, the Church at Corinth was divided—some wanted Paul, some Apollos, some Cephas, and some Christ.

And we know, dear brethren, that the spirit of the flesh has ever led us to worship anything save the Lord Jesus Christ! Yes, often to worship our preacher, and he is worthy of double honor and should be taken care of by you for the gospel’s sake. You should do this by administering to his every need, and in faithfulness, but not puff his vanity, or exalt his pride, “For it is this spirit that has ever and will ever lead the people of God astray.”—Isa. ix. 16. “For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.”—Isa. iii. 12; Jer. ii. 8, x. 21, xxiii. 12; Acts xx. 29.30; with many others.

But, my dear brethren, the Lord God in his exceeding and abundant mercy has blessed us with evidences that brotherly love continues. Each year for the last thirty-five or forty years, these Circular Letters, and the reports of our churches, have been peace and love.

It has pleased our Heavenly Father to give unto us able, faithful and humble ministers of the gospel, and we now love to cherish the memory of our venerable father in Israel, our presiding officer and counselor for nearly half a century, ELD. D. L. HITCHCOCK, who fell asleep in Jesus now nearly two years ago and we now mourn his death, and the loss of a father and counselor.

Dear brethren, should we not strive (not to hinder) for the things that make peace? Yes, let brotherly love continue. When we retrospect the past are we not made to feel and say, “Surely, goodness and mercy has followed us all the days of our unprofitable lives.”

When we realize that the Lord, in His mercy, has given to us another able, humble and wise counselor to preside over us—and may the Lord bless us with him—ever praying the Lord to uphold, support and sustain him and ourselves by His grace to continue in his love.

Yes, dear brethren, in bearing each other’s burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ, this law of Christ is love. God is love! Do not hinder this love by saying we love God and hate our brother, for if we love not our brother, the love of God is not in us. We manifest this love by esteeming our brother better than ourselves. Yes, in honor, preferring one another. If your brother is overtaken in a fault, you should go to him in the spirit of meekness. If your brother offend you go to him.

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no cause of stumbling in him." Herein is love, not that we loved God, but he loved us. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought, also, so love one another. If we love one another God dwelleth in us and His love is perfected in us. There is no fear in love; perfect love casteth out all fear; therefore, we are made to love our enemies—bless them that curse us; do good to them that hate us, and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute us.

And now, the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead the Lord Jesus—that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will—working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

J. H. GRESHAM, Moderator.

D. G. McCOWEN, Clerk.

J. W. NEWTON, Assistant Clerk.

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### Corresponding Letter.

*The Ocmulgee Association, in Session with the Church at Smyrna, Monroe County, Ga., September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1905, to the Sister Associations with whom she Corresponds, send greeting:*

MUCH BELOVED BRETHREN—Through the kind providence of our covenant-keeping God, we have been blessed with meeting together in love and harmony. The coming of your messengers hath made our poor hearts glad, in hearing them proclaim the glad tidings of salvation by grace, and grace alone.

Love has prevailed through our meeting, with Christ exalted as our Prince and our Saviour. We were glad to receive so many of your messengers. We desire that you continue to come, in the spirit of love and fellowship, that God's name may be blessed at all times. Amen.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the church at County Line, Jones county, Ga., four miles east of Juliette, Ga., on the Southern Railroad.

J. W. GRESHAM, Moderator.

D. G. McCOWEN, Clerk.

J. W. NEWTON, Assistant Clerk.

